

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing and outputting a program signal, comprising:
 - a data receiver (120,122) for receiving a signal channel selections from a user;
 - a tuner signal input (100,105) for receiving a program signal associated with one of a plurality of signal channels, said signal input selecting one of said a plurality of signal channels in response to said signal channel selection from a user, the selected one of said plurality of signal channels including a program signal;
 - a signal output (RGB OUT) for providing an output signal derived from said program signal;
 - an auxiliary data decoder (115) for detecting program related information included in each said program signal; and
 - a central processing unit processor (112) operatively connected to said data receiver, said signal input, said signal output and said auxiliary data decoder, wherein said central processing unit processor controls said output signal for reducing in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to said program signal when a predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received, in response to detecting a predetermined sequence of signal channel selections being received to thereby prevent a user from exploiting a delay associated with said auxiliary data processor detecting program related information included in said program signal.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said central processing unit processor controls said output signal for reducing user access to said program signal for at least until said program related information has been determined when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received.
3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said program signal is a television signal.
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections comprises a predetermined number of consecutive selections of a particular signal channel.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein said ~~central processing unit~~ predetermined sequence of signal channel selections comprises a predetermined number of consecutive selections of said particular signal channel, a second signal channel and said particular signal channel.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said central processing unit ~~processor~~ controls said output signal for reducing user access to said program signal in said predetermined manner when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is received and ~~a first blocking mode has been selected~~ program related information previously detected in said program signal met a user selected blocking criteria.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said central processor unit ~~processor~~ is capable of providing an On Screen Display menu for allowing user selection of said user selected ~~first blocking criteria mode~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said central processing unit ~~processor~~ is capable of providing a restricted access On Screen Display menu for allowing user selection of said first user selected blocking criteria mode.

10. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein access to said restricted access On Screen Display menu is password protected.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said central processing unit controls said output signal for reducing user access to said program signal by predetermined manner of control comprises one of blanking the

video signal, replacing the video signal with an On Screen Display message, muting the audio signal and disabling associated closed captions.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said central processing unit processor controls said output signal to reduce user access in ~~said predetermined manner~~ when said predetermined sequence of signal channel selections is detected, unless said program related information was previously determined to be within an acceptable level within a predetermined period of time.

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a ~~second~~ signal input (101,102) for receiving a second program signal from an external signal source, and a switch (140) operatively connected to said ~~signal input~~ tuner, said ~~second~~ signal input, said signal output and said ~~signal processor~~ central processing unit, said switch operatively coupling a respective one of said program signal and said second program signal with said signal output in response to a signal source selection from the user, wherein said signal processor controls said output signal for reducing in a predetermined manner to reduce user access to said output signal for at least until said program related information has been determined when a new signal source selection is received.